Reintroduction of Central Subsidy Scheme

312. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Subsidy Scheme has encouraged entrepreneurs to set up industries in backward areas; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for reintroduction of the Central Subsidy Scheme to set up industries in backward areas; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1971 provided an incentive to entrepreneurs to set up industries in the centrally declared backward areas. The scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 30-9-1988. Government in March, 1990 announced that a new investment subsidy scheme would be introduced for small scale units set up in rural and backward areas. The details of the scheme are being worked out. However, the proposed scheme has so far not been introduced.

Industrial growth centres in the country

313. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to establish seventy industrial growth centres in the country;

(b) whether project reports of the proposed industrial growth centres have been prepared;

(c) whether implementation of industrial growth centres has started; if so, what are the centres where the scheme has been implemented; and

(d) when the proposed industrial growth centres in Gujarat will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d) under the Growth Centre Scheme, it is proposed to develop seventy growth centres throughout the country for promoting industrialisation of backward areas. So far, project reports in respect of 32 growth centres have been received, out of which 5 reports have been approved. The remaining reports are under various stages of appraisal. The scheme would be implemented throughout the country, including in Gujarat, during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Strengthening the Public Distribution System

314. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further strengthen the Public Distribution System and bring more commodities under it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Strengthening and streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continual process. The State Government/UT Administrations, who primarily implement the PDS, have been advised among other things, to open new Fair Price Shops (FPS) in uncovered and undercovered areas, issue ration cards to all families both in rural and urban areas, increase commodity coverage by adding, on their own, additional items of mass consumption, monitor timely availability of PDS items to consumers and vigorously enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, and other similar legislations, to check malpractices.